

In the Substitute Specification

Kindly replace paragraph [0014] with the following:

Brief Description of the Drawings

The disclosure will be understood better with the help of the description given below, purely by way of explanation of a selected, representative example, with reference to the accompanying figures:

Fig. 1 illustrates a lateral view in perspective of a dynamic connecting element;

Fig. 2 illustrates another of the connecting elements of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 illustrates a view in section of the connecting element of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 illustrates a partial view in perspective of a spinal fixing system comprising rigid connecting elements and dynamic connecting elements; and

Fig. 5 illustrates a view in section of a semi-dynamic connecting element with a blind cavity.

Fig. 6 illustrates a view in section of a semi-dynamic connecting element with a through cavity.

Fig. 7 illustrates a view in section of another connecting element similar to that of Fig. 2 having a second layer of 12 strands.

Fig. 8 illustrates a side view of the connecting element of Fig. 7.

Kindly replace paragraph [0045] with the following:

Advantageously, the strands constituting the layer or layers include strands twisted around the central strand or titanium-nickel alloy.

Kindly replace paragraph [0068] with the following:

Each connection assembly is respectively connected to an adjoining connection assembly by a connecting element. In particular, in this example, the connection assembly (110) is connected to the connection assembly (120) by means of a spinal osteosynthesis connecting element (121), the connection assembly (120) being connected to the connection assembly (130) by means of a dynamic connecting element (1) according to one of the structures illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3.

Kindly replace paragraph [0069] with the following:

The combination of dynamic connecting elements (1) and spinal osteosynthesis connecting elements (121) thus makes it possible to offer a modular fixing system comprising conventional connecting elements of the osteosynthesis connection type and dynamic connecting elements.

Kindly replace paragraph [0075] with the following:

This is because the cable (13) is bent against the cutting edges formed by the lateral walls of the cavity (15) and the face constituting the end of the rigid part (12). Thus, and to limit this risk of shearing, the cavity (15) has, on the emerging end, a widened zone (16) relative to a narrowed zone (200). 4

Please insert new paragraphs before paragraph [0078] as follows:

Fig. 6 shows a connecting element (101) that is similar to the connecting element (10) of Fig. 5. However, the connecting element (101) in Fig. 6 has a through cavity (150) that extends from the widened zone (16) to the narrowed zone (200) and to the end (201) of connecting element (101) at opening (202).

Figs. 7 and 8 show a connecting element that is similar to the connecting element shown in Figs. 2 and 3 except that there is a second layer (41) comprising 12 strands (40). Second layer (41) is layered over and around layer (4). As indicated in Fig. 8, the strands (40) of second layer (41) are twisted around central strand (22) and strands (40) of first layer (4).